

Remarks

In the Examiner's Office Action dated March 22, 2006, the examiner refused to consider the IDS submitted. Further, the Examiner objected to claims. Further, the Examiner objected to the title.

In terms of art-based rejections, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5-7, 10-16, and 19-22 as being anticipated by US Patent Publication No. 2003/0007029 made by Kotaki. The examiner also rejected claims 2-4 as being obvious over Kotaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,709,253 issued to Maerzke. Finally, the Examiner has rejected claims 8-9 and 17 as being obvious over Kotaki in view of alleged admitted prior art from the specification of the original application.

With respect to the IDS objections, a new IDS has been submitted with the appropriate headings added to the second page, those headings including (i) application number, and (ii) identification as an IDS.

With respect to the Examiner's objections with respect to the lack of threads shown in the drawings, claims 8, 9, and 17 referenced have been cancelled. This should moot these issues.

With respect to the specification, the title suggested by the Examiner has been adopted by amendment.

With respect to the art-based rejections, It is believed that the claims in their present form have been distinguished from the prior art. One reason is that none of Kotaki, Maerzke, or any of the other evidence of record suggests the use of pliable syringe-mountable tips for cleaning the ports of a cartridge. Kotaki may disclose the use of a suctioning member for the purpose of priming a tip. Maerzke shows the use of a syringe for administering ink into a

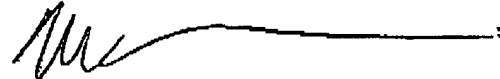
cartridge. But niether discloses anything which creates a sealed arrangement which is used for cleaning ports.

The prior art of record also fails to disclose the claimed tapered or flared embodiments. The Maerzke syringe mounted arrangement shows on part that may be tapered, but there is no evidence that it is even pliable or could in some other manner be used to administer suction to ports for cleaning purposes. And nothing shows a flared device.

Conclusion

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully suggested that this application is in condition for allowance. If any issues remain that would prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned by telephone prior to issuing a subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,



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MSH

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO
CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL AMOUNT REQUIRED,
OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO ACCOUNT
NO. 19-2112.